(c) (i)However, quality control machinery of both State and Central Government keep on conducting regular checks by taking samples from manufacturing units as well as dealers, storage/godowns for ascertaining the quality of material being supplied to the farmers as per Fertilizer Control Order, 1985.

(ii) In case of pesticides, drawal of samples from manufacturing premises as well as distribution/sale points by notified Insecticides Inspectors for analysis in the State Pesticides Testing Laboratories and Launching of prosecution against the erring manufacturers and administrative course of action under the Insecticides Act, 1968 and the Rules framed thereunder, is undertaken.

Boards for Maharashtra

4984. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Statutory Development Boards for Vidharbha, Marathwada and the rest of Maharashtra have been set up;

(b) if so, financial allocation made for these Boards, and

(c) the plans of these Boards so far as development of these backward regions is concerned?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Reconstruction of Railway Station

4985. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Administration has a plan to reconstruct Thane Railway Station on the Central Railway in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the funds allocated for the purpose and the time by which the reconstruction work is expected to start indicating its probable date of completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work would cost about Rs. 5.29 crore and in the year 1996-97, Rs. 1.80 crore have been allocated for the same. The time for starting the work and its completion cannot, however, be fixed with any degree of certainty as there are a large number of encroachments/ shops on railway land adjoining the existing station building and the building work shall be hindered until these encroachments are shifted.

Organic Farming

4986. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to promote the organic farming in the country;

(b) if so, the schemes prepared thereon; and

(c) the States where organic farming has been on the increase?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is promoting organic farming system in agriculture in the country.

(b) For promoting organic farming involving the balanced use of organic manures in conjuction with chemical fertilisers, following schemes/projects launched by the Ministry of Agriculture are in operation in the country:—

(i) Balanced and Integrated use of Fertilisers

(ii) National Project on development of Fertiliser use in low-consumption and rainfed areas.

In addition, the following ICAR-sponsored schemes are also in operation:—

(i) AICRP on Biological Nitrogen Fixation

(ii) Micro-Biological Decomposition

(iii) National Centre on Blue green Algae (at IARI)

(iv) Testing of different species of Azola at CRRI, Cuttack

(v) Long-term Fertiliser Experiments (LTFE).

(c) Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu and Uttar Pradesh are some of the States where organic farming is being promoted.

Production of Onion

4987. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of onion in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the total quantity of onion exported during the said period; and